

Even Members of Congress sometimes join this sort of demagoguery. A month ago, Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB tweeted, “No more policing, incarceration, and militarization. It can’t be reformed.” Back in January, Congresswoman CORI BUSH tweeted, “Defunding the police isn’t radical, it’s real.” This sort of talk is dangerous for people in neighborhoods that depend heavily on police officers to keep them safe.

Law enforcement officers have to make split-second decisions that could be the difference of life or death for themselves or someone they are trying to protect. That is what we train them to do. Sadly, we sometimes need them to use force in order to keep the rest of us safe.

Now, we are used to seeing videos on the internet of police officers using deadly force. But if you want to see really good policing in action, I would suggest people look at another video. It is on the internet. Just do a simple search of “Los Angeles deputy Mercedes Benz.” You will come across a video of a Los Angeles sheriff’s deputy doing a routine traffic stop of a driver who had been using her phone while behind the wheel. In this video, the driver calls the deputy a “murderer” and then mocks him for being Hispanic and taunts him for supposedly wishing he were White. That video will make your stomach turn. But throughout the video, the deputy is courteous and professional. I suspect nearly all enforcement officers conduct themselves and their work in that way. They have a very hard job to do and deal with people who often don’t want to deal with the police. Most of them do that job very professionally and respectfully.

I worry that because of the threat of violence, the condemnation by the media, and daily abuses like this one, more and more police officers won’t want to do the job anymore. And I worry that more and more young adults won’t want to start careers in law enforcement. We need more qualified people who want to be police officers, not fewer.

We can’t keep up like this. We can’t keep scaring away our police officers while telling the next generations of Americans that cops are evil. They are not evil. They are our friends and neighbors who make a career out of keeping us safe. When the outside world becomes a dangerous place, they show up and we expect them to show up.

The outside world is not going to stop being a dangerous place. Let’s make sure cops don’t stop showing up. Let’s end the war on cops.

CHINA

On another subject, Madam President, dealing with my oversight work, on March 10 of this year, I came to the floor about my February 11, 2021, oversight letter to the Biden administration’s Department of Homeland Security. That letter discussed the administration’s withdrawal of what has been

called the Confucius rule associated with the country of China and probably more closely related to the Communist Party of China. The rule that was withdrawn was proposed in the Trump administration, and it would have required educational institutions to just simply disclose their financial connection to the Communist Chinese Government, including its Confucius Institutes.

The substance of the rule is common sense, especially in light of the clear propaganda threat that the regime of China presents to us. It is common sense, so why wouldn’t the Biden administration continue with it?

In my letter, I ask Secretary Mayorkas two very simple questions:

One, does the Biden Department of Homeland Security consider Confucius Institutes to be an extension of the Chinese Government? If not, why not?

Second question: Does the Biden Department of Homeland Security consider Confucius Institutes to be purveyors of Communist Chinese propaganda? If not, why not?

When I took to the floor on March 10, the Biden administration had failed to respond. As of today, still no response. These are very easy questions for the administration. The failure to answer in light of the ongoing threat is very troubling.

Just the other week, the Justice Department indicted an American professor on two counts of wire fraud and one count of making a false statement for concealing support he received from the Chinese Government. The indictment tells me this administration has concerns about China and our universities, or this action would not have been taken.

During the course of my oversight activities, I have looked at both threats to taxpayer-funded research and threats that Confucius Institutes pose to our educational institutions. Simply put, these are real concerns.

With respect to threats to taxpayer-funded research, we must protect our intellectual property and research. The Chinese are stealing our intellectual property every day. We all know that.

We spend billions of dollars and expend a great amount of effort to bring innovations to this country and, in turn, the world. We must protect our American investments from Chinese espionage and theft.

Likewise, we must guard against the propaganda spread by Confucius Institutes, which are extensions of the Communist regime.

One member of the Communist regime said this:

The Confucius Institute is an appealing brand for expanding our culture abroad. It has made an important contribution toward improving our soft power. The “Confucius” brand has a natural attractiveness. Using the excuse of teaching Chinese language, everything looks reasonable and logical.

Now, I want to quote the Chinese Minister of Propaganda, who said to his fellow ministry workers:

[C]oordinate the efforts of overseas and domestic propaganda, [and] further create a favorable international environment for us.

With regard to key issues that influence our sovereignty and safety, we should actively carry out international propaganda battles against issues such as Tibet . . . Taiwan, human rights.

Our strategy is to proactively take our culture abroad. We should do well in establishing operating overseas cultural centers and Confucius Institutes.

Why would any American doubt China’s purpose for Confucius Institutes based upon the quote of that Minister? Yet, even with this very clear threat, the Biden administration is silent on the proposed rule other than their getting caught retracting that Trump rule. What more does this administration need before they get the picture?

Given the administration’s failure to act, I have introduced a bill, S. 1369, that would make the rule that they have withdrawn now a law. My bill, which is cosponsored by Senators BLACKBURN, TILLIS, and HAWLEY, would require U.S. educational institutions to disclose their financial connections with the Communist Chinese regime. My bill would accomplish these measures by requiring schools to disclose those connections as part of their certification and recertification in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program. That program provides approvals to schools to enroll nonimmigrant students. If the schools want visas for these foreign students, they will first have to disclose their ties to the Chinese Government.

The centerpiece of the bill I just described is disclosure and transparency, and we all know that transparency brings accountability. We the people absolutely have a right to know if our educational institutions are tied to the hip with China, especially in light of that regime’s using money to gain leverage over many of them, which brings me, then, to a greater point. American educational institutions ought to stand up to the Communist regime instead of doing their bidding for the millions of dollars they receive.

China is a national security threat. They are a propaganda machine, and we know they will stop at nothing in their attempt to dominate the world.

It is time for the Biden administration to step up to the plate and protect our American interests and American institutions. If they don’t let that rule of the previous administration stay in place or put it back in place, I would urge my colleagues to join my transparency bill.

ELECTION SECURITY

Madam President, on one final point, I would like to call once again for both sides to stop using elections as a partisan weapon.

As I have mentioned before, the claim by some Trump supporters that a certain brand of voting machine switched votes was lifted entirely from the Democrats’ 2004 playbook. President Trump’s questioning of his loss in Georgia was simply following in the

footsteps of the losing candidate for Governor 2 years before. She lost by over 50,000 votes and has never even bothered to try to prove voting irregularities on that scale.

Just ask Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who got into hot water from Trump supporters and was briefly celebrated by the Democrats for defending the integrity of the Georgia election. He will be the first to tell you that attacks on Georgia's election system started not with Trump but with Democrats.

Democrats decided to take their partisan election attack nationwide. This is what led to H.R. 1, the so-called by Speaker PELOSI For the People Act. The title alone reveals it as a propaganda bill. They didn't take the time to draft something from scratch since the purpose was partisan messaging, not enacting thoughtful reform of our election laws. They just cobbled together every election mandate bill introduced by a Democrat in recent years into one giant package, taking little care to make sure it all made sense together and without working with local election officials to see if it was even a practical approach.

Democrats have now reframed the same bill in a response to what they call the big lie, that the 2020 election was illegitimate, but it was actually written in 2019 to double down on Democrats' own big lie questioning the legitimacy of the various elections they lost in 2018.

America's elections are free and fair. That is true in Iowa, in Georgia, and all 50 States. It was true in 2018 and in 2020, and I am confident it will be true in 2022.

Foreign adversaries like Russia and China cast doubt on the soundness of our democratic system both to weaken it from within and to justify their own repressive regimes. Influence efforts to do just that have been part of the KGB playbook for decades. But foreign agents can't hold a candle to what we Americans are doing to ourselves. Casting doubt on elections may be good politics in the short run, but it does real damage in the long run. Let's all agree to stop this sort of peddling of doubts about the elections.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

JOBS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I hope that you had a marvelous Mother's Day. I enjoyed so much being back in Tennessee, and over the past week, I really had the pleasure of hearing from so many Tennesseans who are just celebrating having reopened businesses and music venues and public spaces in our communities.

There was a lot of happiness across our State as I was there. Everywhere you looked, you could see evidence that people are ready to get back to work, and they want to get back to life as normal.

There is also a lot of evidence that local businesses are ready to get back

to normal. You cannot walk 10 feet in Knoxville, TN, for example, without running into a "help wanted" sign. Normally, this would be an indicator of a successful economic comeback, but here is the problem: Those signs just are not working, not for retail or restaurants or even for the industrial sector with small business manufacturing. Some businesses are getting so desperate for help that they are offering signing bonuses worth hundreds of dollars to anyone willing and able to come back to work.

All year, we have used a particular catchphrase to encourage people to get their vaccinations. We have said that if we could only get shots in arms, then we could get back to normal. Well, as it turns out, that was step 1. We are getting the shots in arms. People are getting vaccinated. Now it is time for step 2, and that is getting people back to work, getting them to fill these jobs.

I have said time and again and I will say it again: The best economic stimulus there is, the very best economic stimulus there is, is a job. It is a job. This holds true not just for those pulling in a paycheck but for the businesses that are hiring.

My Democratic colleagues—many of them—disagree with me on this point, but I firmly believe the best economic stimulus is a job. For months, some have refused to discuss an end to the various emergency relief programs we all agreed were necessary to help workers and businesses survive the lockdowns. But they were never meant to be permanent programs; they were there for a time of specific need.

I think, if some of my colleagues took the time to speak to the owners whose businesses are short on labor, they would hear the same story over and over again. Their pool of potential employees was drained dry, at least in part by the unemployment insurance plus-up that we initiated last year. Because of the way that program was designed and because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle rejected our offers to amend it, potential employees are drawing in more in unemployment than they would make at some jobs.

Now, some of my colleagues across the aisle dispute the notion that this imbalance has led to a labor shortage. They claim that if there are people staying home and collecting unemployment rather than taking their old job back, or maybe a new job, that those examples are anecdotal. But to that point, I would ask: How many anecdotes does it take to create a trend?

In Tennessee, there are at least a quarter of a million jobs available, but as of last week, we still have about 49,000 people receiving the \$300 plus-up. This means that there are five jobs—five—five jobs available for every single one of those 49,000 people.

I want to make it clear that these business owners have no reason to lie about the trouble they are having finding help. Their survival depends on their ability to hire a team of employ-

ees. They gain nothing by poisoning the well with false accusations. Anyone who has ever run a business knows that.

They also know it is a difficult call for these potential employees to make, even when signing bonuses and higher wages are on the table, but therein lies the disconnect. While businesses are incentivized to do all they can to attract workers, the Federal Government has incentivized workers to hold out as long as they can before taking the leap into a new job. It is not their fault, but it is the reality that Congress created.

What we are seeing now isn't economic stimulus. I would offer that it is an economic stalemate. And if we don't break the ties that bind recovery to the success or failure of a government program, we will suffer long-term economic consequences.

As I said, some of my Democratic colleagues fundamentally disagree with that approach. They have made that disagreement clear to the tune of \$6 trillion worth of spending that would be like nothing else that we have ever seen and making it a permanent part of our economic landscape.

They gave us a COVID relief package that had almost nothing to do with fighting the pandemic, an infrastructure proposal that dedicates 60 percent—60 percent of its total pricetag to job-killing proposals like the Green New Deal fantasies and, most recently, a supposedly pro-family proposal that, if implemented, will in fact replace the stability of the nuclear family with a lifelong tether to the welfare state.

Talk about never letting a crisis go to waste. This isn't compassion, in my opinion, and it isn't recovery. This is a power grab. They took the majority, put pen to paper, and produced a wish list. They have wanted to check off items from that wish list since 2010. So their list is long.

This version of economic stimulus, which, in reality, is just a destructive cycle of spending and dependency and taxation and inflation, will require more than just a general buy-in from the American people. They are going to have to persuade people to cede authority, to cede authority over their lives, their families, their businesses, their jobs, their employment—cede that authority to the Federal Government.

Now, if this isn't true, if this isn't their goal, let the Democrats dispute it. Let them come to the table and listen to what these business owners are telling us. Let them help figure out a way to offer a light at the end of the tunnel to the unemployed and underemployed instead of keeping them tangled in a safety net that was neither designated nor intended to be permanent.

We still have a long way to go before we can declare victory over the COVID-19 pandemic. But what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to acknowledge is that we will never make it across the finish line if we don't allow the American people to